

Close finishes highlight prep track finale

By STEVE MORSE
 Staff Writer

The results of the Al Geisler-Mendell Vaughn All-City, All-Area Track Meet were close in more ways than one Tuesday night.

There were tight finishes in several individual events and a nip-and-tuck battle in the unofficial city and area team scores.

But the third annual meet at C.W. Post Field was highlighted by a different kind of closeness — closeness in vicinity.

Host Battle Creek Central High won nine events to lead a barrage of eight city and nearby area schools who combined to win 25 of the 51 events in the season-ending meet, sponsored by the Battle Creek Area Amateur Sports Association.

The Bearcats, led by triple winners Brad Horton and Carolayne "Cookie" Henry, won six boys' events and three girls' titles to head the parade of nearby champions.

Perhaps the most surprising of those champions was Gull Lake's Dan Healy, who won the pole vault with a meet-record 13-foot-6. It was one of 11 records set in the meet.

"It's a foot better than I've ever jumped before," an excited Healy said moments after he had beaten Scott Frohrip of Sturgis in a jump off by clearing 13-6 a second time.

"My coach let me practice a week by myself. I usually have to work with relays, but this gave me a chance to really practice . . . I jumped out of my shorts."

Not even Healy's late heroics could keep the area from suffering an 89-87 loss to the city in boys' competition.

But the area beat the city in the girls' meet, 87½-77½, giving the area an overall edge of 174½-166½ in the unofficial team results tabulated by the Enquirer and News, using a four-place (5-3-2-1) scoring method.

Horton and Henry, named the outstanding male and female performers at last week's All-City Meet, would have had a strong case for

similar awards Tuesday, if such honors had been given.

Horton won the 440 in a meet-record 59.3 and anchored the Bearcats' winning 800 and mile relay teams.

In the 800 relay, Horton and St. Philip's Mike Disher received the baton at about the same time and went into the turn side by side.

Disher seemingly held the edge, but Horton held off Disher's bid to pass and roared to victory.

"When we got midway through the corner, I knew I had him," said Horton, who passed up the 800 to concentrate on the mile relay, in which he turned a slight deficit into a two-second victory.

Henry ran the final leg on Central's victorious 440 and 800 girls' relay teams, took first in the 220 and finished a close second in the 100.

"I knew I had my work cut out for me," Henry said of the 220, in which she nipped Karen Brown of Sturgis by two-tenths of a second. "I was really tired after running three events, but I did my best and won."

Also playing important roles for the Bearcats were Dwight Horton and Darin Canales, both of whom won individual events and ran on a winning relay team; and Scott Morris and Jerome Harris, who each ran on two victorious relay teams.

Morris and Dwight Horton teamed with Tony Dozier and Eric Dudley to set a meet record in the 440 relay at 44.3, two-tenths of a second faster than the time Olivei had run the past two years at the meet.

Among other nearby multi-event winning schools:

—Harper Creek, which earned five girls' titles, with Laurette Mallard participating in three of the victories.

—Gull Lake, triumphant in three boys' events, including Healy's victory.

—Delton, which gained three boys' championships, two by Tim



Bob Emery of Lakeview High huffs and puffs as he makes his final approach in the pole vault during Tuesday's All-City.

Photo by Michelle Jones

All-Area track meet at Post Field. Emery finished third in the event, which was won by Gull Lake's Dan Healy.

Miller in the shot put and discus.

—Athens, which won the girls' shot put and mile with meet-record performances by Carla Herwarth and Marta Hinkley, respectively.

Rounding out the list of nearby winners were Karen Wallace of Lakeview, who nipped Henry and Debbie Brown in a thrilling girls' 100; Karen O'Neil of Pennfield, who edged Cold-

water's Cathy Miller in the 110 hurdles; and Pat Hurst of St. Philip, who won the boys' long jump for the third straight year, although he failed to defend his titles in both hurdle races.

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